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CHINA.

Plague in Canton.

Consul-General McWade reports, May 4, as follows:
Bubonic plague sporadic, Canton.

Spread of plague.

[Telegram.]

CANTON, CHINA, *May 12, 1903.*

Bubonic plague spreading rapidly among towns villages West River.

McWADE, *Consul-General.*

Plague at Amoy.

The vice-consul at Amoy reports, May 9, the presence of bubonic plague.

COLOMBIA.

Report from Bocas del Toro, fruit port—Smallpox.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Osterhout reports as follows: Week ended April 28, 1903. Population, not obtainable. Prevailing diseases, malarial fever and smallpox. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good, except for the smallpox as reported.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels.

Date.	Name of vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Apr. 22	Anselm.....	35	0	0	0
23	Fort Gaines.....	24	0	0	0
25	Mount Vernon.....	21	0	0	0

COSTA RICA.

Report from Limon, fruit port—Yellow fever.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Gruver reports as follows: Week ended April 30, 1903. Present officially estimated population, 4,000; number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the week, 2; number of deaths from other causes, 5; prevailing diseases, malaria, tuberculosis, yellow fever. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, infected with yellow fever. Both cases reported above are at Charity Hospital. One is an American, white, who came from Colon on April 15. He was admitted to the hospital on the 25th. It is a typical case of yellow fever, presenting all the characteristic symptoms, disturbed correlations between pulse and temperature, photophobia, highly albuminous urine, bleed-

ing gums, and black vomit. Dr. Jumel, resident physician for Louisiana State board of health, and Dr. Steggall, the city physician, concur in the diagnosis of yellow fever.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels.

Date.	Name of vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Apr. 24	Venus	28	0	0	0
25	Alabama	19	0	0	0
26	Algiers	33	0	0	0
27	Alene	42	35	1	0

Sanitary conditions at Limon—Proposed improvements—Yellow fever, Malarial diseases, and tuberculosis—Compulsory vaccination.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Gruver reports, April 24, as follows:

An investigation of the hospital records here shows that yellow fever continues throughout the year, and that there is no period when this port is not infected.

From November 1, 1902, when the quarantine season closed, to April 9, 1903, the date of my arrival here, 29 cases of yellow fever were treated in the three hospitals, with a total mortality of 12. This, however, can not be considered the total number of cases during that period as it has reference merely to those admitted to the hospitals. We have no means of ascertaining the number of cases which may have occurred in private practice or were unattended, as the law requires that only deaths be reported. I attempted to obtain the official list of deaths covering that period, but found that the records had been sent to San Jose and no copy had been retained here.

The sanitary conditions are poor, not only in the city of Limon, but also in the surrounding territory. Many of the cases reported from this city are brought from plantations in the interior and from stations on both the Costa Rican and Northern railroads.

The hospitals are situated in the heart of the city. They are old, unsanitary in construction, and offer good breeding places for germs and for the propagation of disease. Isolation in one of them is impossible.

The houses in most cases are of wood, built low to the ground, and they cover stagnant pools from which noxious odors arise.

The city is divided into squares. Many of them are unimproved and below the street level. They are without drainage, and after a rain the water collected remains until absorbed.

Occasionally a case of leprosy comes to the city. I am told that this disease is very frequently found in the contiguous territory, but seldom reaches the city.

The water supply for domestic purposes comes from a locality about 10 miles up the Banana River, beyond all human habitation.

The health authorities of Limon have awakened to the gravity of the situation, and at a meeting held recently made the following suggestions to the governor of Limon, with a request that they be recommended to the medical faculty at San Jose: 1, hospitals to be moved